

ON THE ART OF POETRY.

TO THE PISOS.

SI pictor velit jungere equinam cervicem
If a painter should wish to join a horse's neck
humano capiti, et inducere varias plumas
to a human head, and to spread a variety (of) feathers
membris collatis undique,
over limbs (of different animals) brought together from all sides,
ut mulier formosa superne desinat
so that a woman beautiful in her upper parts should have
turpiter atrum
an ugly ending (terminate unsightly) in a black (ugly)
piscem, teneatis risum, amici,
fish, could you restrain your laughter, my friends,
admissi spectatum? Credite, Pisones,
if admitted to look at it? Believe me, ye Pisos,
librum fore persimilem isti tabulæ,
that a book will be very like (to) that picture,
species cujus fingentur vanæ velut
the conceptions of which shall be formed empty, like
somnia ægri, ut nec pes nec
the dreams of a sick man, so that neither foot nor
caput reddatur uni formæ.
head is adapted to any one form.

“Pictoribus atque poetis semper fuit

“*To painters and poets there always has been (allowed)*

æqua potestas audendi quidlibet.”

an equal license (privilege) of attempting whatever they like.”

Scimus, et petimusque damusque
We know it, and we both ask (as poets) and grant (as critics)
 vicissim hanc veniam: sed non ut immita coëant
in turn this privilege: but not that savage mate
 placidis; non ut serpentes gementur avibus,
with tame; not that serpents may be coupled with birds,
 agni tigribus. Gravibus inceptis et professis
lambs with tigers. To pompous plans and to those promising
 magna plerumque unus et alter purpureus
great things very often one or two purple (brilliant)
 pannus adsuitur, qui may (in order to) make a
patches are sewed, which
 splendeat late quum lucus et arx
brilliant display far and wide when a grove and the altar
 Dianæ, et ambitus aquæ properantis
of Diana, and the meandering course of a stream gliding swiftly
 per amœnios agros, aut flumen Rhenum, aut
through the pleasant fields, or the river Rhine, or
 pluvius arcus describitur. Sed nunc non erat
a rainbow is described. But at the moment there was no
 locus hic. Et fortasse scis simulare
place for these. And perhaps you know how to imitate
 cupressum: quid hoc, si, qui
a cypress: to what purpose is that, if he, who
 pingitur ære dato,
is to be painted for money given (for a given price,)
 enatat exspes
is to be represented as swimming ashore hopeless
 fractis navibus? Amphora cœpit
from his wrecked vessel? A wine jar began
 institui: cur exit urceus,
to be constructed; why turns out a pitcher
 currente rota? Denique, sit
from the revolving potter's wheel? In fine, let it be
 quodvis, duntaxat simplex et
what you will, provided it be only (something) simple and

unum. Maxima pars vatum, pater, et juvenes
one (uniform.) The greatest part of us poets, father, and youths
 digni patre, decipimur specie recti.
worthy of (such) a father, are misled by a vision of right.
 Laboro esse brevis, fio obscurus: nervi animique
I strive to be concise, I become obscure: nerves and spirit
 deficiunt sectantem lenia: professus
fail him aiming at smoothness: (one) having professed
 grandia turgēt: nimium tutus
great things is bombastic: the too cautious and (he who is)
 timidusque procellæ serpit humi: qui cupit
fearful of a storm creeps along the ground: he who desires
 variare unam rem
to lend variety to one and the same subject so as to produce a
 prodigialiter, adpingit delphinum sylvis, aprum
marvellous effect, paints a dolphin in the woods, a boar
 fluctibus. Fuga culpæ ducit in
in the waves. The shunning of blame leads into
 vitium, si caret arte. Faber circa Æmilium
fault, if it lacks art. An artist about the Æmilian
 ludum unus et exprimet
school will alone (more skilfully than any other) both represent
 unguēs, et imitabitur molles capillos ære:
the nails, and will imitate soft (waving) hair in bronze:
 infelix summa operis,
unsuccessful (unhappy) in the sum total of his work (in his
 quia nesciet ponere
work as a whole,) because he will not know how to represent
 totum. Si curem componere quid, ego non
the whole. If I should care to compose anything, I would no
 magis velim me esse hunc, quam vivere
more desire myself to be this man, than to live with a
 pravo naso, spectandum nigris
deformed nose, (though) worthy to be gazed at for my black
 oculis nigroque capillo. Qui scribitis, sumite materiam
eyes and black hair. Ye who write, take a subject

æquam vestris viribus ; et versate diu,
equal to (not too much for) your powers ; and consider long,
 quid humeri recusent, quid valeant ferre.
what your shoulders refuse, what they are able to bear.
 Nec facundia deseret hunc, nec lucidus ordo
Neither eloquence shall fail him, nor perspicuous order
 cui res erit lecta potenter. Hæc
by whom a subject shall be chosen judiciously. This
 erit virtus et Venus ordinis, aut ego
will be the excellence and charm of order, or I
 fallor : ut dicat jam nunc debentia
am mistaken ; that he say at this moment what needs
 jam nunc dici : differat pleraque, et
at this moment to be said : that he defer much, and
 omittat in præsens tempus. Auctor
omit (them) for the present time. Let the author
 promissi carminis amet hoc, spernet hoc.
of the projected poem embrace one word, reject another word
 Tenuis cautusque in ærendis verbis etiam,
Subtle and cautious in connecting words also,
 dixeris egregie, si callidi
you will have expressed yourself excellently, if a skilful
 junctura reddiderit notum verbum novum.
setting will have rendered a well-known word new.
 Si forte est necesse monstrare abdita rerum
If by chance it be necessary to explain new conceptions
 recentibus indiciis, continget
by newly-invented terms (signs,) it will be allowable
 fingere non exaudita cinctutis
to frame words not heard of by the cinctured (old-fashioned)
 Cethegis : que licentia dabitur
Cethegi : and a license shall be given
 sumta pudenter. Et verba nova
if used with moderation (modestly.) Also words new
 nuperque ficta habebunt fidem ; si
and recently formed shall have acceptance (credit ;) if

cadent Græco fonte, parce detorta.
they descend from a Greek source, sparingly derived.
 Quid autem, Romanus dabit Cæcilio
Why, indeed, shall a Roman grant to Cæcilius
 Plautoque, ademptum Virgilio
and Plautus, what is taken away from (denied) Virgil
 Varioque? Cur ego invidior, si possum acquirere
and Varius? Why am I envied, if I can acquire
 pauca, quum lingua Catonis et Enni
a few (new names,) when the language of Cato and Ennius
 ditaverit patrium sermonem, ac protulerit nova
has enriched our native tongue, and produced new
 nomina rerum? Licuit, semperque
names of things? It has been allowed, and ever
 licebit, producere nomen signatum
will be allowed, to put in circulation words impressed
 præsentē nota. Ut sylvæ mutantur
with the current stamp. As the woods are changed by means
 foliis in annos pronos,
of leaves from year to year as they run smoothly (swiftly) on,
 prima cadunt: ita vetus setas verborum interit, et
the first fall off: so an old race of words dies, and
 modo nata florent vigentque ritu juvenum.
the newborn flourish and thrive after the manner of young men.
 Debemur nos nostraque morti; sive Neptunus
We owe ourselves and ours to death; whether the sea
 receptus terra arcet classes Aquilonibus,
received by the land defends our fleets from the north winds,
 opus regis; palusve diu sterilis que
the work of a king; or the marsh long barren and
 apta remis alit vicinas urbes, et
fit for oars maintains the neighboring cities, and
 sentit grave aratrum: seu amnis mutavit
feels the heavy plough: or the river has changed
 cursum iniquum frugibus, doctus melius
its channel pernicious to the fruits, being taught a better

iter : mortalia facta peribunt ; nedum
course : all mortal works shall perish ; much less
 honos et gratia sermonum stet vivax.
can the charm and grace of language continue to flourish.
 Multa renascentur, quæ jam cecidere ;
Many shall revive, which now have fallen into disuse ;
 vocabulaque cadent quæ
and words shall fall (into disuse) (become obsolete) which
 nunc sunt in honore ; si usus volet,
now are in esteem ; if usage shall wish it,
 penes quem est arbitrium, et jus, et
in whose hands is the decision, and right, and
 norma loquendi. Homerus monstravit quo
standard of speaking. Homer has shown in what
 numero gestæ res regumque ducumque, et
metre the heroic deeds of kings and commanders, and
 tristia bella possent scribi. Primum querimonia,
disastrous wars could be written. At first lamentation,
 post etiam sententia compos
afterwards also the sentiment which expresses the
 voti est inclusa versibus
attainment of one's desires was included in verses
 impariter junctis, tamen quis auctor emisit exiguos
unequally joined, yet what author published the light
 elegos, grammatici certant, et adhuc lis est
elegiacs, our teachers dispute, and still the contest is
 sub judice. Rabies armavit Archilochum
under the judge (undecided.) Rage armed Archilochus
 proprio iambo : socci grandesque cothurni
with his own iambic : the socks (of comedy) and stately buskins
 cepere hunc pedem aptum alternis
(of tragedy) assumed this measure adapted to alternate
 sermonibus, et vincentem strepitus populares,
speeches, surmounting the clamors of the populace,
 et natum agendis rebus.
and suited by nature to things to be acted (dramatic scenes.)

Musa dedit fidibus referre divos,
The Muse has given to the lyre to celebrate gods,
 puerosque deorum, et victorem pugilem, et
and the sons of gods, and the victorious wrestler, and
 equum primum certamine, et curas
the horse foremost in the race, and the cares (love)
 juvenum, et libera vina. Cur ego salutor
of young men, and the freedom of wine. Why am I saluted
 poeta, si nequeo que ignoro servare
as a poet, if I am not able and know not how to preserve
 descriptas vices, que colores
the marked out changes (differences,) and style
 operum? Cur prave pudens
of productions? Why, falsely modest (from a false shame,)
 malo nescire, quam discere? Comica
do I choose rather to be ignorant, than to learn? A comic
 res non vult exponi tragicis
subject does not choose to be represented in tragic
 versibus; item cœna Thyestæ indignatur
verse; also the supper of Thyestes disdains
 narrari privatis carminibus ac prope
to be told in strains of common life and almost
 dignis socco. Quæque singula
worthy of the sock (comedy). Let each separate (kind of writing)
 teneant locum, sortita decentem.
hold (its own) place, having had a proper one allotted to it.
 Tamen interdum et comœdia tollit vocem,
Nevertheless sometimes both comedy raises its voice,
 iratusque Chremes delitigat tumido ore; et
and angry Chremes rails in swelling language; and
 plerumque tragicus Telephus ac Peleus dolet
frequently in tragedy a Telephus and Peleus grieve
 pedestri sermone, quum uterque pauper et exul
in prosy speech, when each being poor and an exile
 projicit ampullas ac verba sesquipedalia,
throws aside his bottles (rants) and words a foot and a half long

(high-sounding,) si curat tetigisse cor
 if he cares to touch the heart
 spectantis querela. Non est satis
 of the spectator with his complaint. It is not enough
 poemata esse pulchra ; sunt dulcia, et
 that poems be fine ; let them be charming, and
 agunto animum auditoris, quocunque
 carry with them the mind of the hearer, whithersoever
 volent. Ut humani vultus arrient
 they will. As human countenances smile upon
 ridentibus, ita adsunt flentibus :
 those smiling, so support (with sympathy) the weeping :
 si vis me flere, primum est dolendum tibi ipse :
 if you wish me to weep, first you must weep yourself :
 tunc tua infortunia lædent me, Telephe, vel
 then your misfortunes will affect me, Telephus, or
 Peleu ; si loqueris male mandata,
 Peleus ; if you shall speak (words) ill assigned you,
 aut dormitabo aut ridebo. Tristia verba
 I shall either fall asleep or laugh. Mournful accents
 decent mœstum vultum ; plena
 become a dejected countenance ; accents (words) full
 minarum, iratum ; lasciva,
 of threats (become) an angry one ; wanton expressions,
 ludentem ; seria dictu, severum.
 a sportive ; (those) serious in expression, a severe.
 Enim natura format nos prius
 For nature forms us first (from our very birth)
 intus ad omnem habitum fortunarum : juvat,
 within to every condition of our fortunes : she gladdens,
 aut impellit ad iram, aut deducit ad
 or instigates to anger, or depresses to
 humum, et angit gravi mœrore : post
 the ground, and afflicts (us) with painful grief : afterwards
 effert motus animi interprete
 she pours forth the emotions of the mind by the agency

lingua. Si dicta erunt absona
of the tongue. If the words shall be ill-suited
 fortunis dicentis, Romani equites
to the fortunes of the speaker, the Roman knights
 peditesque, tollent cachinnam.
and people on foot (the plebeians,) will raise a peal of laughter.
 Intererit multum divusne loquatur, an heros;
It will differ much whether a god speaks, or a hero;
 senexne maturus, an adhuc
whether an old man whose time is come, or one as yet
 fervidus florente juvena; et
warmed with flowering (vigorous) youth; and whether
 matrona potens, an sedula nutrix;
a lady of distinction, or an officious nurse;
 vagusne mercator, cultorne virentis
a rambling merchant, or the tiller of the green
 agelli; Colchus, an Assyrius; nutritus
field; a Colchian, or an Assyrian; one bred
 Thebis, an Argis. Aut sequere famam,
at Thebes, or at Argos. Either follow the current tradition,
 aut finge convenientia sibi. Scriptor,
or invent things consistent with themselves. As a writer
 si forte reponis
(when you write,) if by chance you put on the stage again
 Achillen honoratum, impiger,
Achilles when he is in receipt of full honor, indefatigable,
 iracundus, inexorabilis, acer, neget jura
wrathful, inexorable, fierce, let him deny that laws
 nata sibi, non arroget nihil armis.
were made for him, (and) claim everything to force of arms.
 Medea sit ferox invictaque, Ino flebilis,
Let Medea be fierce and unconquerable, Ino weeping,
 Ixion perfidus, Io vaga, Orestes tristis. Si
Ixion perfidious, Io wandering, Orestes sad. If
 committis quid inexpertum scenæ, et
you commit anything (hitherto) untried to the stage, and

audes formare novam personam ; servetur
dare to form a new character, let it be preserved
 ad imum qualis processerit ab incepto, et
to the last such as it set out from the beginning, and
 constet sibi. Est difficile dicere
be consistent with itself. It is difficult to speak of
 communia proprie : tuque
things common in a way of your own : and you
 rectius deducis Iliacum carmen in actus,
with more success draw asunder the Ilian song into acts,
 quam si primus proferres ignota
than if you first shall bring forward subjects unknown
 indictaque. Publica materies
and unmentioned. A public matter (a story already handled)
 erit privati juris, si nec
shall become (of) your own private property, if you neither
 moraberis circa vilem patulumque orbem ;
will loiter around the common and open circle of events ;
 nec fidus interpretes curabis reddere verbum
nor as a faithful interpreter will take care to render word
 verbo ; nec imitator desilies in artum
for word ; nor as an imitator plunge into a strait
 unde pudor aut lex operis
(narrow place,) whence shame or the law of your work
 vetet referre pedem. Nec sic
may forbid you to withdraw your foot. Nor shall you so
 incipies ut cyclicus scriptor olim : " Fortunam Priami
begin as a cyclic writer once (did) : "The fate of Priam
 et nobile bellum cantabo." Quid hic promissor
and glorious war I will sing." What will this boaster
 feret dignum tanto hiatu ? Montes
produce worthy of such vaunting ? The mountains
 parturient. : ridiculus mus nascetur.
are in labor : a ridiculous mouse will be brought forth (born.)
 Quanto rectius hic, qui molitur
How much more correctly does he (Homer,) who attempts

nil inepte! "Dic, Musa, mihi virum qui
nothing injudiciously! "Sing, O Muse, to me the man, who,
 post tempora captæ Trojæ, vidit mores multorum
after the times of captured Troy, viewed the customs of many
 hominum, et urbes." Cogitat dare non fumum
men, and their cities." He plans to raise not smoke
 ex fulgore, sed lucem ex fumo, ut dehinc
from a blaze, but light from smoke, that afterwards
 promat speciosa miracula,
he may bring to view his striking marvels (marvellous creations,)
 Antiphaten, Scyllamque, et Charybdis cum
(such as) Antiphates, Scylla too, and Charybdis with
 Cyclope. Nec orditur
the Cyclops. Neither does he begin (act like the writer who
 reditum Diomedis ab interitu Meleagri,
dated) the return of Diomedes from the death of Meleager,
 nec Trojanum bellum ab gemino ovo:
nor the Trojan war from the double egg (of Leda,
 semper festinat ad eventum;
(the birth of Helen :) he always is hastening to the issue:
 et rapit auditorem in medias
and hurries away his reader into the midst
 res, non secus ac notas;
of the narrative (affairs,) not otherwise than if known;
 et relinquit quæ desperat posse
and omits what he despairs of being able
 nitescere tractata: atque ita mentitur,
to receive a polish after being treated: and so forms his fictions,
 sic remiscet falsa veris, ne medium
so intermingles the false with the true, that the middle
 discrepet primo, ne imum
does not differ from the beginning, nor the end
 medio. Tu audi, quid ego et populus
from the middle. Do you hear, what I and the people
 mecum desideret. Si eges
with me desire (of you as a poet.) If you want

plausoris manentis aulæa, et
an applauder waiting (until the fall of) the curtain, and ready to
 sessuri usque donec cantor dicat, "Vos plaudite:"
sit even till the singer calls out, "Do ye applaud:"
 mores cujusque ætatis sunt notandi tibi,
the manners of every age are to be observed by you,
 decorque dandus mobilibus
and a fitting character is to be assigned to changing
 naturis et annis. Puer, qui jam scit
natures and years. The boy, who just knows how
 reddere voces, ac signat humum
to reply (articulate) words, and imprints the ground
 certo pede, gestit colludere paribus, et
with a firm foot, rejoices to play with his equals, and
 colligit ac ponit iram temere, et
contracts and lays aside anger at random, and
 mutatur in horas. Imberbis juvenis, custode
is changed every hour. The beardless youth, his tutor being
 tandem remoto, gaudet equis canibusque, et
at length removed, delights in horses and dogs, and
 gramine aprici Campi; cereus
in the grass of the sunny Campus Martius; pliable as wax
 flecti in vitium asper monitoribus, tardus
to be bent (turned) to vice, rude to his monitors, a slow
 provisor utilium, prodigus æris,
provider of useful things, lavish of his money,
 sublimis, cupidusque, et pernix
high-spirited, and with strong desires, and hasty
 relinquere amata. Ætas animusque
to abandon things (once) beloved. The age and spirit
 virilis, conversis studiis, quærit opes
of manhood, having changed its aims, seeks riches
 et amicitias, inservit
and friendships, is a slave to (devotes itself to)
 honori; cavet commisisse quod mox
honor (office); is cautious of committing what soon after

labore^t mutare. Multa incommoda
it must endeavor to alter. Many inconveniencies
 circumveniunt senem ; vel quod
surround an old man ; both that (because)
 quærit, et miser abstinet
he seeks (gain), and wretchedly abstains
 inventis, ac timet uti : vel
from his acquisitions, and dreads to use them : and
 quod ministrat omnes res timide
because he administers all his affairs timorously
 gelideque, dilator, longus spe, iners,
and coldly, dilatory, long (patient) in hope, inactive
 javidusque futuri ; difficilis,
and greedy of the future (eager for longer life ;) cross-grained
 querulus, laudator temporis acti
querulous, an extoller of the time spent (of the world as it
 se puero, censor que castigato
seemed) when he was a boy, a censorer and chastiser
 minorum. Anni venientes ferunt secum
of the younger. The years coming bring along with them
 multa commoda, recedentes adimunt
many advantages, (the years) departing take
 multa. Ne forte seniles
many away. (You must remember,) lest by chance senile
 partes marentur juveni, virilesque
characters be assigned to youth, and the manly (characters)
 puero ; semper
to a boy ; we (the audience) shall always dwell (with
 morabimur in adjunctis aptisque
pleasure) on the attributes joined to and fitted to the
 ævo. Res aut agitur
time of life. An action is either represented
 in scenis, aut refertur acta.
upon the stage, or is (there) related as done (elsewhere.)
 Demissa per aurem irritant animos
Things let in (which enter) through the ear stir up the feelings

segnius quam quæ sunt subjecta
more slowly than (those) which are submitted
 fidelibus oculis, et quæ spectator
to the faithful eyes, and (those) which the spectator
 ipse tradit sibi. Tamen non
himself presents to himself. However, you will not
 promes in scenam digna geri
bring forward upon the stage things fit to be acted
 intus ; tollesque multa
within (behind the scenes ;) and you will remove many things
 ex oculis, quæ facundia
from the eyes, which the lively eloquence of one who is
 mox præsens narret : ne Medea
now (on the stage) presently may narrate : let not Medea
 trucidet pueros coram populo ; aut nefarius
kill (murder) her sons before the people ; or wicked
 Atreus coquat humana exta palam ; aut
Atreus boil human entrails openly ; or
 Procne vertatur in avem, Cadmus in
Procne be transformed into a bird, Cadmus into
 anguem Quodcunque ostendis mihi sic ;
a snake. Whatever you present to me thus,
 incredulus odi. Neve fabula sit minor, neu
disbelieving I hate Neither let a play be shorter, nor
 production quinto actu, quæ vult
longer than the fifth act, which wishes to be
 posci, et spectata reponi.
called for and, having (once) been seen, to be brought out again.
 Neu deus intersit, nisi nodus inciderit
Nor let a deity interfere, unless a knot shall have appeared
 dignus vindice : nec quarta persona
worthy of such a liberator : nor let a fourth person
 labore loqui. Chorus defendat
show anxiety to speak. Let the chorus maintain
 partes officiumque virile actoris : neu
the parts and manly character of an actor : nor

intercinat medios actus quid quod non conducatur
let it sing between the acts anything which may not conduce

et apte hæreat proposito.
and aptly cohere (connect itself) to the main design.

Ille faveatque bonis, et consilietur
Let it (the chorus) both favor the good, and advise them

amice: et regat iratos, et
in a friendly manner: and govern the wrathful, and

amet tamen peccare ille laudet dapes
love (those) fearing to offend: let it commend the meals

brevis mensæ: ille salubrem justitiam,
of a frugal table; let it (praise) salutary justice

legesque, et otia apertis
(the blessings of justice,) the laws too, and peace with her open

portis: ille tegat commissa, preceturque et
gates: let it conceal (secrets) entrusted, and pray and

oret deos, ut fortuna redeat miseris,
beseech the gods, that fortune may return to the wretched,

abeat superbis. Tibia non, ut nunc,
(and) depart from the proud. The flute, not, as now,

vincta orichalco, que æmula tubæ; sed
bound with brass, and rival of the trumpet, but

tenuis que simplex pauco foramine
slender and simple with its few holes,

erat utilis aspirare et adesse
was useful to give the note to (the key) and to accompany

choris, atque complere flatu sedilia
the choruses, and to fill with its breath (sound) the seats

nondum nimis spissa: quo populus
not yet too much crowded: whither the people

sane numerabilis, utpote parvus, et frugi,
easily counted as being few, and frugal,

castusque, verecundusque, coibat. Postquam
and chaste, and modest, met together. After

victor
victorious (when its conquests were over) (the Roman people)

cepit extendere agros, et latior
began to extend their territories, and a broader
 murus amplecti urbes, que Genius
wall to encompass the cities, and their Genius
 placari diurno vino festis diebus
to be propitiated with wine in the day time on festival days
 impune: major licentia accessit
(holidays) without restraint: greater license was added
 numerisque modisque. Enim
both to (poetic) numbers and measures (musical tones.) For
 quid rusticus indoctus liberque
what taste could the clown illiterate and free
 laborum saperet, confusus urbano, turpis
from his labors have, mixed with the citizen, the base born
 honesto? Sic tibicen addidit
with the respectable? Thus the musician added
 motumque et luxuriam prae arti,
both movement and wantonness to his ancient art,
 vagusque traxit vestem per pulpita:
and strolling about trailed his robe along the stage:
 sic etiam voces crevere severis fidibus, et
thus also new notes were added to the grave lyre, and
 praeceps facundia tulit insolitum eloquium:
bold (abrupt) eloquence produced an unusual diction (in the
 sententiaque sagax
theatre:) and the sentiment (of the chorus, then) skilled in
 utilium rerum, ac divina futuri non
teaching useful things and prophetic of the future, did not
 discrepuit sortilegis Delphis. Qui certavit
differ from the mystic oracles of Delphos. He who disputed
 tragico carmine ob vilem hircum, mox
in tragic verse for the paltry (prize of a) goat, presently
 etiam nudavit, agrestes Satyros, et
also brought naked on the stage the wild Satyrs, and
 asper incolumi gravitate tentavit jocum,
roughly, without any sacrifice of dignity, essayed the joke,

eo quod spectator erat morandus
with this purpose that the spectator was to be detained
 illecebris et grata novitate, que functus
by allurements and agreeable novelty, both having performed
 sacris, et potus et
the sacred rites, and heated with wine (drunk) and
 exlex. Verum conveniet ita
ready to defy all laws. But it will be expedient so
 commendare risores, ita
to recommend these banterers, with this reservation,
 dicaces Satyros, ita vertere seria ludo,
the rallying Satyrs, so to change grave matters to gay,
 ne quicunque deus, quicunque heros adhibebitur,
that whatever god, whatever hero shall be introduced,
 nuper conspectus in regali auro et ostro,
lately conspicuous in royal gold and purple,
 migret in obscuras tabernas humili
he may not descend (pass) to dingy hovels in low
 sermone, aut, dum vitat
language (talk in vulgar dialect,) or, while he shuns
 humum, captet nubes et inania.
the earth, he may not grasp at the clouds and empty space.
 Tragoedia indigna effutire leves versus, ut
Tragedy disdaining to babble forth light verses, like
 matrona jussa moveri festis diebus,
a matron commanded to dance on festival days,
 intererit protervis Satyris paulum pudibunda.
will mingle among the wanton Satyrs somewhat modestly
 Pisones, ego scriptor
(reserved.) Ye Pisones, I, a writer of (if I were to write)
 satyrorum non amabo solum inornata et
satyr dramas, will not love only unpolished and
 dominantia nomina verbaque: nec sic
proper nouns and verbs: nor so far (will I)
 enitar differe tragico colori, ut
endeavor to differ from the tragic style, that

nihil intersit,
there should be no difference (it should make no odds,)

Davusne loquatur, et audax Pythias lucrata
whether Davus speaks, and port Pythias having gained

talentum emuncto Simone, an Silenus custos
a talent by cheating Simo, or Silenus, the guardian

famulusque alumni dei. Sequar
and nurse of his pupil god (Bacchus.) I will aim at

carmen fictum ex noto :
a style of verse artistically composed from familiar material:

ut quivis speret idem sibi ;
so that any one may hope (to do) the same thing himself ;

ausus idem sudet multum,
but having attempted the same he may perspire much,

laboretque frustra : tantum pollet series
and labor in vain: so powerful is the order

juncturaque ; tantum honoris accedit sumtis de
and setting ; so much grace is added to words taken from

medio. Fauni sylvis deducti
the common mass. The Fauns from the woods (when) brought

caveant, me judice,
(on the stage) should take care, in my judgment,

ne velut innati triviis, ac pene
that they do not, like those born in the streets, and almost

forenses, aut
dwellers in the forum (the heart of the town,) either

unquam juvenentur nimium teneris versibus,
ever talk as young men do in too amatory strains,

aut crepent immunda ignominiosaque dicta. Enim
or utter foul and scurrilous jests. For

offenduntur, quibus est equus,
they are offended, to whom there is a horse (the equites,)

et pater, et res,
and a (legal) father (the ingenui,) and an estate (the

nec, si emptor fricti ciceris
substantial citizens,) nor, if the buyer of parched peas

et nucis probat quid, accipiunt
and nuts approve of anything, do they receive it
 æquis animis, donantve corona.
with favorable sentiments, or present it with a garland.
 Longa syllaba, subjecta brevi, vocatur iambus,
A long syllable, put after a short one, is called an iambus,
 citus pes; unde etiam jussit nomen trimetris
a rapid foot; whence also it bade the name of trimeters
 accrescere iambeis, quum redderet senos ictus,
to be added to the iambic verses, since it yielded six beats,
 primus ad extremum similis sibi. Non
(from) the first to the last being similar to itself. Not
 ita pridem ut veniret ad
so long ago ('tis only the other day) that it might come to
 aures paulo tardior graviorque,
the ears somewhat more slow and more majestic,
 commodus ac patiens
being obligingly and contentedly (obliging and long-suffering)
 recepit stabiles Spondeos in paterna
it received the stable Spondees into its hereditary
 jura, non ut cederet socialiter
rights, not on the terms that it should depart as friends might
 de secunda aut quarta sede. Hic
from the second or fourth place. This (iambus)
 et apparet rarus in nobilibus trimetris Acci,
both appears seldom in the famous trimetres of Accius,
 et premit versus Enni missos
and weighs down (brands) the verses of Ennius brought
 in scenam cum magno pondere aut
upon the stage with a great weight (of spondees) or
 turpi crimine operæ nimium celeris
with the shameful charge of a performance too hasty
 carentisque cura, aut ignoratæ artis. Non quivis
and wanting care, or of art not understood. Not every
 judex videt immodulata poemata, et indigna
judge discerns inharmonious poems, and an improper

venia	est	data
<i>indulgence (which they ought not to need)</i>	is	<i>given</i>

Romanis poetis. Idcircone vager, scribamque
to the Roman poets. Should I therefore ramble, and write

licenter? an putem omnes visuiros mea
carelessly? or should I assume that all will see my

peccata, tutus et cautus intra spem veniæ?
faults, cautious and careful within the hope of indulgence?

Denique, vitavi culpam, non merui laudem.
In a word, I have avoided censure, not merited praise.

Vos versate Græca exemplaria manu nocturna,
Do you turn over the Greek models in your hand by night

diurna. At vestri proavi laudavere
(turn them over also) by day. But your ancestors praised

et numeros et sales Plautinos; mirati
both the numbers and witticisms of Plautus; having admired

utrumque nimium patienter (non dicam stulte:)
each too patiently (I will not say foolishly:)

si modo ego et vos scimus seponere inurbanum
if only I and you know (how) to distinguish a coarse

lepidò dictò, què callemus legitimum sonum
from a smart joke, and understand the proper cadence

digitis et aure. Thespis dicitur
by (using) our fingers and ear. Thespis is said to have

invenisse genus tragicæ Camenæ ignotum, et
invented the kind of tragic poetry unknown (before,) and

vexisse plaustreis poemata, quæ
to have carried about in carts his poems, which (certain men)

canerent agerentque, peruncti ora
should sing and act, being bedaubed as to their faces with

fæcibus. Post hunc Æschylus repertor personæ
lees of wine. After him Æschylus, the inventor of the mask

honestæque pallæ et instravit pulpita
and the stately robe, both laid the stage over (covered

(the stage) modicis tignis et docuit que
with moderate sized planks, and taught both

loqui magnum nitique
to speak loftily (sublime thoughts,) and to tread majestic
 cothurno. Vetus comœdia successit his, non
in the buskin. Ancient comedy succeeded to these, not
 sine multa laude: sed libertas excidit
without much applause: but its liberty fell (degenerated)
 in vitium, ac vim dignam regi lege:
into vice, and outrage deserving to be regulated by law:
 lex est accepta; chorusque turpiter obticuit,
a law was enacted and the chorus shamefully became silent,
 jure nocendi sublato. Nostri
the privilege of injuring (defaming) being taken away. Our
 poetæ liquere nil intentatum; nec meruere
poets have left nothing unattempted; nor have they merited
 minimum decus, ausi deserere vestigia
the least honor, who dared to forsake the footsteps
 Græca, et celebrare domestica facta, vel
of the Greeks, and to celebrate domestic deeds, either
 qui docuere prætextas, vel qui togatas.
(those) who have exhibited tragedies, or who comedies.
 Nec Latium foret potentius virtute
Nor would Latium be more powerful by its valor and
 clarisve armis, quam lingua, si labor et
illustrious arms, than by its eloquence, if the labor and
 mora, limæ non offenderet
delay of the file (of polishing their writings) did not offend
 unumquemque poetarum. Vos, o sanguis
every one of our poets. You, the blood (descendants)
 Pompilius, reprehendite carmen, quod multa dies et
of Pompilius, reject the verse which much time and
 multa litura non coercuit, atque
much correction (many an erasure) has not pruned, and
 non castigavit decies ad præsectum unguem.
has not corrected (polished) ten times to the pared nail
 Quia Democritus credit
(to most perfect accuracy.) Because Democritus believes

ingenium fortunatius. misera arte, et
native gift (talent) more successful than wretched art, and

excludit sanos poetas Helicone, bona pars
excludes sane poets from Helicon, a good part (of them)

non curat ponere ungues, non barbam :
do not care to cut their nails, nor their beard :

petit secreta loca, vitat balnea. Enim
seek (frequent) retired places, shun the baths. For (he imagines

nanciscetur pretium nomenque
that) he shall acquire the recompense and the name

poetæ, si nunquam commiserit tonsori
of a poet, if he shall never have committed to the barber

Licinio caput insanabile tribus Anticyris. O
Licinus his head incurable by the three Anticyras. O

lævus ego qui purgor bilem
stupid fellow that I am, who am purged as to my bile

sub horam verni temporis! non alius
in the season of the vernal springtime! no other

faceret meliora poemata. Verum nil est
could make better poems. But nothing is worth

tanti. Ergo fungar vice
such expense. Therefore I will discharge the office

cotis, quæ valet reddere ferrum
of a whetstone, which is able (serves) to make the steel

acutum, ipsa exsors secandi; docebo munus
sharp, itself incapable of cutting; I will teach the duty

et officium, ipse scribens nil; unde
and office (of an author,) myself writing nothing; whence

opes parentur; quid alat formetque poetam;
riches may be obtained; what nourishes and moulds a poet;

quid deceat, quid non; quo virtus,
what may become him, what not; whither virtue,

quo error ferat. Sapere
whither error leads. To be wise (to have sound judgment)

est et principium et fons scribendi recte.
is both the beginning and the source of writing well

Socraticæ chartæ poterunt ostendere tibi
The Socratic papers will be able to show (direct) you (in
 rem; verbaque haud invita sequentur
choosing) a subject; and words not unwilling will accompany
 rem provisam. Qui didicit quid
the subject provided (conceived.) He who has learned what
 debeat patriæ, et quid amicis;
he owes to his native country, and what to his friends;
 quo amore parens, quo frater et
with what affection a parent, with what a brother and
 hospes sit amandus; quod sit officium conscripti,
a stranger is to be loved; what is the duty of a senator,
 quod iudicis; quæ partes ducis missi
what of a judge; what the duties of a general sent out
 in bellum; ille profecto scit reddere convenientia
to war; he truly knows how to render suitable
 cuique personæ. Jubebo doctum
(attributes) to each character. I will advise the learned
 imitatore[m] respicere exemplar moremque vitæ,
imitator to look back to the model and manner of life,
 et hinc ducere voces vivas. Interdum
and hence to draw language faithful to life. Sometimes
 fabula speciosa locis, recteque
a play (if it is) vivid in (dealing with) characters, and rightly
 morata, nullius veneris, sine pondere
paints them (e'en though) of no grace, without weight
 et arte, valdius oblectat populum, meliusque
and art, more highly delights the people, and better
 moratur, quam versus inopes rerum,
keeps their attention, than lines void of substance,
 canoræque nugæ. Musa dedit Graiis
and melodious trifles, The Muse granted to the Greeks
 ingenium Graiis avaris nullius præter
genius, to the Greeks covetous of nothing except
 laudem, loqui rotundo ore. Romani
praise, to speak in well-rounded phrase (style.) The Roman

pueri discount diducere assem in centum
youths learn to sub-divide a pound into a hundred

partes longis rationibus.
fractional parts by long sums (computations.)

"Filius Albinus dicat: Quid superet, si
"Let the son of Albinus tell (me :) What remains, if

uncia est remota quincunce? Poterat
an ounce is subtracted from five ounces? You might have
dixisse." "Triens." "Eu!

told me (by this time.)" "A third of a pound." "Well done!

poteris servare tuam rem.
you will be able to take care of your own affairs.

Uncia redit, quid fit?" "Semis."
If an ounce is added, what is the amount?" "Half a pound."

An speramus carmina posse fingi
Do we expect that verses can be composed

linenda cedro, et servanda
worthy to be rubbed over with cedar oil, and to be preserved

levi cupresso, quum semel hæc ærugo
in polished cypress (boxes,) when once this rust (canker)

et cura peculi imbuerit animum? Poetæ volunt
and care of wealth has tainted the mind? Poets wish

aut prodesse aut delectare; aut simul dicere et
either to profit or to please; or at once to say things both

jucunda et idonea vitæ. Quidquid præcipies,
agreeable and useful to life. Whatever you shall command,

esto brevis: ut animi cito percipiant, dociles,
be brief: that minds may quickly perceive, with docility,

fidelesque teneant dicta. Omne supervacuum
and faithfully retain the sayings. Everything superfluous

manat de pectore pleno sibi. Ficta
flows from a mind too full for itself. Let what is imagined

causa voluptatis sint proxima veris; ne
for the sake of pleasure be very near to truth; let not

fabula poecat credi, quodcumque
your play demand that it be believed, as to whatever

volit : neu extrahat puerum
(absurdities) it pleases (to exhibit :) nor take a child
 vivum alvo Lamiae pransæ.
alive out of the stomach of Lamia having dined (upon it.)
 Centuriæ seniorum agitant expertia frugis,
The centuries of elders attack (pieces) void of edification,
 celsi Rhamnes prætereunt austera poemata.
the haughty Rhamnes disregard austere poems.
 Tulit omne punctum, qui miscuit utile
He has gained every vote who has mixed the instructive
 dulci, delectando pariterque
with the agreeable, by delighting and at the same time
 monendo lectorem. Hic liber meret æra Sosis,
admonishing the reader. This book earns money for the Sosis,
 et hic transit mare, et prorogat longum ævum
and this crosses the sea, and extends long life
 note scriptori. Tamen sunt delicta, quibus
for its celebrated writer. Yet there are faults which
 velimus ignovisse : nam neque chorda
we would (wish to) forgive : for neither does the string
 reddit sonum, quem manus ac mens
give back (yield) the sound, which the hand and mind
 vult ; persæpeque remittit acutum poscenti
wish ; and very often returns sharp sound to one requiring
 gravem : nec arcus semper feriet quodcunque
a flat sound : nor will the bow always hit whatever
 minabitur. Verum ubi plura
mark it threatens (it shall aim at.) But where more
 nitent in carmine, ego non offendar
(beauties) shine in a poem, I will not be offended
 paucis maculis quas aut incuria
with a few blemishes, which either carelessness
 fudit, aut humana natura parum.
has spattered (over it,) or human nature has not sufficiently
 cavet. Quid ergo est ? Ut scriptor
provided against. What is the conclusion ? As a copying

librarius, si usque peccat idem, quamvis
clerk if he always commits the same fault, however much
 est monitus, caret venia; ut citharædus ridetur,
he is admonished, forfeits pardon; as a harper is laughed at,
 qui semper oberrat eadem chorda: sic qui
who always blunders on the same string: so he who
 multum cessat fit mihi,
often neglects his duty becomes in my estimation
 ille Chærilus, quem bis terque
that well-known Chærilus, whom twice and (even) thrice
 bonum miror cum risu; et idem
good I wonder at with laughter; and I, the same person,
 indignor, quandoque bonus Homerus dormitat;
am displeased, whenever the good Homer nods;
 verum est fas somnum obrepere
yet it is allowable that sleep should steal (as it were) upon
 longo operi. Poesis ut pictura; erit
a long work. Poetry is like a picture; there will be some
 quæ capiat te magis, si stes
(pieces) which will strike (attract) you more, if you stand
 propius, et quædam si abstes longius.
nearer, and some if you stand at a greater distance.
 Hæc amat obscurum; hæc volet videri sub
This loves the dark; this will wish to be viewed under
 luce, quæ non formidat argutum acumen
(in) the light, which dreads not the subtle judgment
 judicis; hæc placuit semel; hæc placebit
of a critic; this has pleased once; this will please
 decies repetita. O major juvenum
ten times repeated. O ye elder of my young (friends),
 quamvis et fingeris ad rectum
although you are both moulded to a right judgment
 paterna voce, et sapis per te, tolle
by a father's voice, and are wise of yourself, take
 hoc dictum tibi memor, medium ac
this saying to you (and) remember it, that a medium and

tolerabile recte concedi certis
tolerable degree (of eminence) is rightly admitted in certain
 rebus. Consultus juris, et actor causarum
things. A lawyer and pleader of causes of
 mediocris abest virtute disertis
moderate talents is far removed from the excellence of eloquent
 Messalæ nec scit quantum Cascellius Aulus,
Messala, neither knows he so much as Cascellius Aulus,
 sed tamen est in pretio: non homines, non
but yet he is held in esteem: neither men, nor
 di, non columnæ concessere poetis
gods, nor columns (booksellers' shops) have allowed to poets
 esse mediocribus. Ut discors symphonia inter gratas
to be indifferent. As inharmonious music at jovial
 mensas, et crassum unguentum, et papaver
tables (banquets.) and thick perfume, and poppy
 cum Sardo melle offendunt; quia cœna
mixed with Sardinian honey give offense; because the supper
 poterat duci sine istis: sic poema
might have been prolonged without them: so a poem
 natum inventumque juvandis animis, si
designed and invented to delight our minds, if
 paulum decessit summo, vergit
it ever so little has fallen short of the highest (summit,) verges
 ad imum. Qui nescit ludere,
(sinks) to the bottom. He who knows not how to play
 abstinet armis campestribus,
(the games) abstains from the weapons of the Campus Martius,
 indoctusque pilæ, discive, trochive,
and the unskilful in playing with the ball, or quoit, or hoop,
 quiescit ne spissæ coronæ tollant
remains quiet (sits still,) lest the crowded rings raise
 risum impune: tamen qui
a laugh without blame (at his expense :) yet he who
 nescit audet fingere versus.
knows not how dares to compose verses.

Quidni? Liber et ingenuus præsertim census
Why not? He is free and free-born, above all he is rated
 equestrem summam nummorum, remotusque
at an equestrian sum of sesterces, and clear
 ab omni vitio.
from every vice.

Tu facies dicesve nihil Minerva invita:
You will do or say nothing, Minerva being unwilling
 id iudicium est tibi, ea
(in defiance of Minerva:) such judgment is to you, such
 mens. Tamen si scripseris quid
understanding. Yet if you shall write anything
 olim, descendat in aures Metii
at any time, let it descend into the ears of Metius,
 iudicis, et patris et nostras;
who is a critic, as well as your father's and ours (mine;)
 prematurque in nonum annum, membranis
and let it be suppressed till the ninth year, the parchments
 positus intus. Quod non
being laid up in your study. What you have not
 edideris, licebit delere:
published, it will be allowed you to (you may) blot out:
 vox missa nescit reverti. Orpheus,
a word sent abroad knows not how to return. Orpheus,
 sacer interpretsque deorum, deterruit homines
the priest and interpreter of the gods, deterred men
 sylvestres cædibus ac fœdo
of the woods (savage men) from slaughters and inhuman
 victu, ob hoc dictus lenire tigres que
food, for that reason said to tame the tigers and
 rabidos leones; et Amphion, conditor Thebæ
furious lions; and Amphion, the founder of the Theban
 arcis, dictus movere saxa sono
citadel, was said to move the stones with the music
 testudinis, et blanda prece ducere
of his lyre, and by persuasive prayer to lead them

quo vellet. Hæc fuit sapientia
whithersoever he would. This was philosophy
 quondam, secernere publica privatis,
of old, to distinguish public from private things,
 sacra profanis, prohibere vago
sacred from profane, to prohibit a promiscuous
 concubitu; dare jura maritis;
commerce between the sexes; to give laws to married persons;
 moliri oppida; incidere leges ligno. Sic honor et
to build cities; to engrave laws on wood. So honor and
 nomen venit divinis vatibus atque carminibus. Post
name came to divine poets and their verses. After
 hos Homerus insignis, Tyrtæusque exacuit
this Homer, gaining fame, and Tyrtæus, stimulated
 mares animos in martia bella versibus. Sortes
manly spirits to martial wars with their verses. Oracles
 dictæ per carmina, et via vitæ est
were delivered by (in) verses, and the conduct of life was
 monstrata; gratia regum tentata et
pointed out; the favor of kings was also tried (solicited)
 Pieriis modis; ludusque repertus et finis
by Pierian strains; and festivals were introduced and the end
 longorum operum: ne forte Musa
of long labors: (this I say) lest possibly the Muse
 sollers lyræ, et cantor Apollo sit
skilful of (on) the lyre, and the singer Apollo, should be
 tibi pudori. Est
to you for a shame (make you ashamed.) It has been
 quæsitum laudabile
sought (made a subject of inquiry) whether a praiseworthy
 carmen fieret natura an arte: ego video nec
poem was produced by nature or art: I see neither
 quid studium sine divite vena, nec quid
what study (can do) without a rich (natural) vein, nor what
 rude ingenium prosit: sic
an uncultivated genius can profit (of itself:) to such a degree

altera res poscit opem alterius et
does the one thing require the aid of the other and

amice conjurat Qui studet
so amicably conspires (bands with it.) He who strives (is

contingere optatam metam cursu,
eager) to reach the wished-for turning-post in the race,

tulit fecitque multa puer ;
has suffered and done many things when a boy ;

sudavit et alsit : abstinuit
he has sweated and shivered with cold ; he has abstained

Venere et Baccho : tibicen qui cantat
from love and wine : the musician who sings (plays)

Pythia, prius didicit, extimuitque
at the Pythian games, first was a learner, and was in awe of

magistrum. Nunc est satis dixisse :
a master. In these days is it enough to have said :

"Ego pango mira poemata ; scabies
"I compose extraordinary poems ; (let the) plague

occupet extremum ; est turpe mihi
take the hindmost ; it is disgraceful for me

relinqui, et fateri sane nescire
to be left behind, and to confess that actually I don't know

quod non didici." Ut præco, qui cogit
what I have not learned." Like a crier, who collects

turbam ad emendas merces ; poeta dives agris,
the crowd to buy his wares, a poet rich in lands,

dives nummis positus in fœnore, jubet
rich in money put out at interest, invites

assentatores ire ad lucrum. Vero
his flatterers to come (and praise his works) for gain. But

si est qui possit ponere unctum
if he is one who is able to serve up a savory banquet

recte, et spondere pro
as it should be served, and to become security for

levi paupere, et eripere implicitum
a poor man of little credit, and to rescue him involved

atris litibus, mirabor, si beatus
in gloomy jaw-suits, I shall wonder, if the blessed man
 sciet internoscere mendacem verumque
shall know how to distinguish a false and a true
 amicum. Seu tu donaris, seu voles
friend. If either you have given, or shall wish
 donare quid cui, nolito
to give anything to any one, be unwilling to (do not)
 ducere plenum lætitiæ ad versus factos
bring him full of joy to (hear) the verses composed
 tibi; enim clamabit, "Pulchre, bene,
by you; for he will exclaim, "O charming, excellent,
 recte!" Pallescet super his,
judicious!" He will turn pale over these (verses,)
 stillabit etiam rorem ex
he will cause even the dew to fall drop by drop from
 amicis oculis, saliet, tundet
his friendly eyes, he will leap about, he will beat
 terram pede Ut qui conducti
the ground with his foot. As those who being hired
 plorant in funere dicunt et faciunt prope plura
lament at a funeral say and do almost more
 dolentibus ex animo, sic derisor
than those grieving from the heart, so the flatterer
 movetur plus vero laudatore. Reges
is (apparently) moved more than a true praiser. Kings
 dicuntur urgere multis culullis, ac torquere
are said to ply with many cups, and torture
 mero, quem laborant perspexisse,
with wine, (the man) whom they are anxious to see through
 an sit dignus amicitia! Si
(prove,) whether he be worthy of their friendship! If
 condes carmina, nunquam animi latentes
you shall compose verses, never let minds lying hid
 sub vulpe fallant te.
under the fox (a cunning exterior) take you in (deceive you.)

Si recitares quid Quintilio,
(I am sure) if you read anything to Quintilius,
 aiebat, "Corrige, sodes, hoc et hoc."
he would say, "Correct, I pray, this and this."
 Negares te posse melius,
If you denied that you could do it better, having
 expertum bis terque frustra, jubebat
tried it twice and (even) thrice in vain, he would order you
 delere, et reddere male formatos versus incudi.
to blot out, and return your badly turned verses to the anvil.
 Si malles defendere quam vertere delictum,
If you chose rather to defend than alter a fault,
 insumebat nullum verbum ultra, aut inanem operam;
he wasted not a word more, or fruitless labor,
 quin solus amares teque
to hinder you from alone delighting in both yourself
 et tua sine rivali. Bonus ac prudens
and your pieces without a rival. An honest and sensible
 vir reprimet inertes versus, culpabit
(sagacious) man will censure weak verses, will condemn
 duros, adlinet atrum signum incompetis
the harsh, will mark a black stroke over the inelegant
 transverso calamo, recidet
(parts) by drawing his pen across it, will prune
 ambitiosa ornamenta; coget dare lucem
the pretentious ornaments; will compel him to throw light
 parum claris, arguet
on (the parts) not sufficiently perspicuous, he will convict
 ambigue dictum; notabit mutanda,
the ambiguously expressed; he will mark what should be altered;
 fiet Aristarchus; non dicet: "Cur
(in short) he will be an Aristarchus; he will not say: "Why
 ego offendam amicum in nugis?" Hæ
should I offend a friend about trifling faults?" These
 nugæ ducent semel derisum exceptumque
trifles will lead one that has once been fooled and treated

sinistre, in seria mala. Qui sapiunt
uncandidly into serious evils. Those who are wise
 timent tetigisse, fugiuntque vesanum poetam, ut
are afraid to touch, and avoid a mad poet, as they do
 quem mala scabies aut regius morbus,
one whom an evil itch or the kingly distemper (jaundice,)
 aut fanaticus error, et iracunda Diana urget :
or inspired frenzy and enraged Diana (lunacy) attacks :
 pueri agitant, incautique sequuntur. Dum
the boys tease him, and the incautious pursue him. While
 hic sublimis ructatur versus, et
he, head-in-air, belches forth verses, and
 errat, si veluti auceps intentus
roams wildly to and fro, if like a fowler intent
 merulis decedit in puteum foveamve, licet
upon blackbirds he falls into a well or ditch, though
 clamet longum, "Io cives, succurrite !"
he cry out for a long time (ever so loud,) "Io citizens, help me !"
 non sit qui curet tollere
there would not be one who would care to pull him up.
 Si quis curet ferre opem, et demittere
If any one does care to bring him help, and to let down
 funem, dicam, "Qui scis, an
a rope, I will ask him, "How do you know, whether
 prudens projecerit se huc, atque
or not he purposely threw himself in hither, and
 nolit servari ?" narrahoque interitum
does not wish to be saved ?" and I will relate the death
 Siculi poetæ. Empedocles dum cupit
of a Sicilian poet. Empedocles, while desirous to be (of being)
 haberi immortalis deus, frigidus insiluit ardentem
deemed an immortal god, in cold blood leaped into burning
 Ætnam. Sit jus, liceatque poetis
Ætna. Let there be a privilege, and let it be allowed to poets
 perire : qui servat invitum,
to perish (as they please :) whoever saves (a man) against his will,

facit idem occidenti.
does the same thing as the man killing him (against his will.)
 Nec fecit hoc semel,
Neither has he done this once only, (is it the first time that
 neque, si erit retractus,
he has acted thus?) nor, if he shall be drawn out again,
 jam fiet homo,
will he then and there become a man (an ordinary human
 et ponet amorem famosæ mortis.
being,) and lay aside the desire of a notorious death.
 Nec satis apparet, cur factitet versus,
Nor does it sufficiently appear, why he keeps making verses,
 ntrum minxerit in patrios cineres,
whether he has urinated upon (defiled) his father's ashes,
 an incestus moverit triste bidental :
or sacrilegiously has removed (disturbed) a sad bidental : he is
 certe furit, ac velut ursus, si valuit frangere
certainly mad, and like a bear, if he could burst
 clathros objectos cavæ, acerbus recitator
the grates placed before his den, this unmerciful rehearser
 fugat doctum indoctumque. Vero quem
puts to flight the learned and unlearned. But whosoever
 arripuit, tenet, occiditque legendo,
he has (once) laid hold of, he holds, and kills by reading,
 hirudo non missura cutem, nisi plena
(like) a leech that will not let go the skin till full
 cruoris.
of blood.

THE END.